

MARVEL

#15

SPENCER
PINA
GUINALDO
ROSENBERG

Steve Rogers

CAPTAIN AMERICA



Super-Soldier. Avenger. Agent of Hydra. He is...

Steve Rogers

CAPTAIN AMERICA



Steve Rogers' reality has been secretly rewritten by Kobik, a sentient Cosmic Cube acting under the influence of the Red Skull. In Steve's new history, a Hydra agent named Elisa Sinclair enrolled Steve in a school where he was trained to believe in Hydra's ideals--and befriended a young Helmut Zemo. Later, Steve would return to the U.S. to become the first Super-Soldier and Hydra's ultimate spy, but he remained close friends with Helmut--until the Red Skull betrayed Hydra and caused the death of Helmut's father.

In the present, the Avengers Unity Squad*--formerly under the command of Steve Rogers--has struck a decisive blow against the Red Skull, excising the mental powers he'd stolen from Charles Xavier and leaving him weakened. The Skull believes Steve Rogers is still under his command, but Steve has his own agenda, and the Red Skull is standing in his way...

*WARNING! READ THIS ISSUE AFTER UNCANNY AVENGERS #22, ON SALE NOW!

NICK SPENCER ★ WRITER JAVIER PINA & ANDRES GUINALDO ★ ARTISTS RACHELLE ROSENBERG ★ COLOR ARTIST

VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA ★ LETTERING GABRIELE DELL'OTTO ★ COVER CARLOS LAO ★ PRODUCTION DESIGN

ALANNA SMITH ★ ASSISTANT EDITOR TOM BREVOORT ★ EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO ★ EDITOR IN CHIEF JOE QUESADA ★ CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER DAN BUCKLEY ★ PRESIDENT ALAN FINE ★ EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Captain America created by Joe Simon & Jack Kirby

I HAVE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS, SKULL.

TO WATCH YOUR OWN PLAN BECOME YOUR UNDOING.

YOU BELIEVED YOU HAD MADE ME YOUR PERFECT SOLDIER.

THAT THROUGH THE POWER OF THE COSMIC CUBE, YOU HAD CHANGED WHO I AM.

BUT IN REALITY, YOU ONLY REVEALED MY TRUE SELF...

...THOUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THAT ALONE WAS NOT ENOUGH TO DEFEAT YOU.

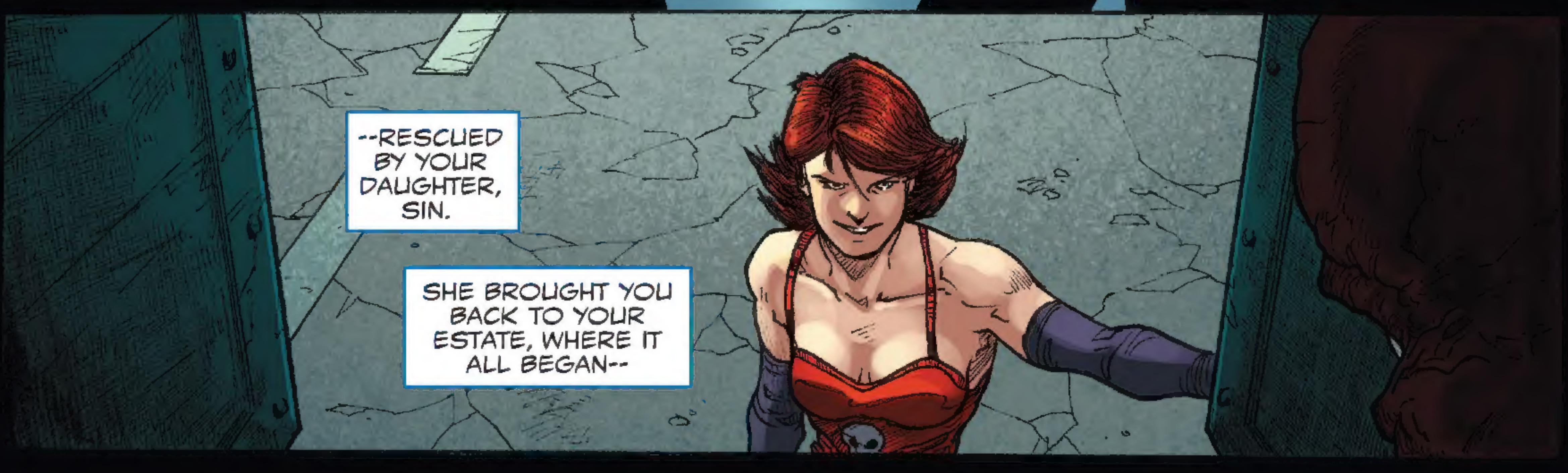
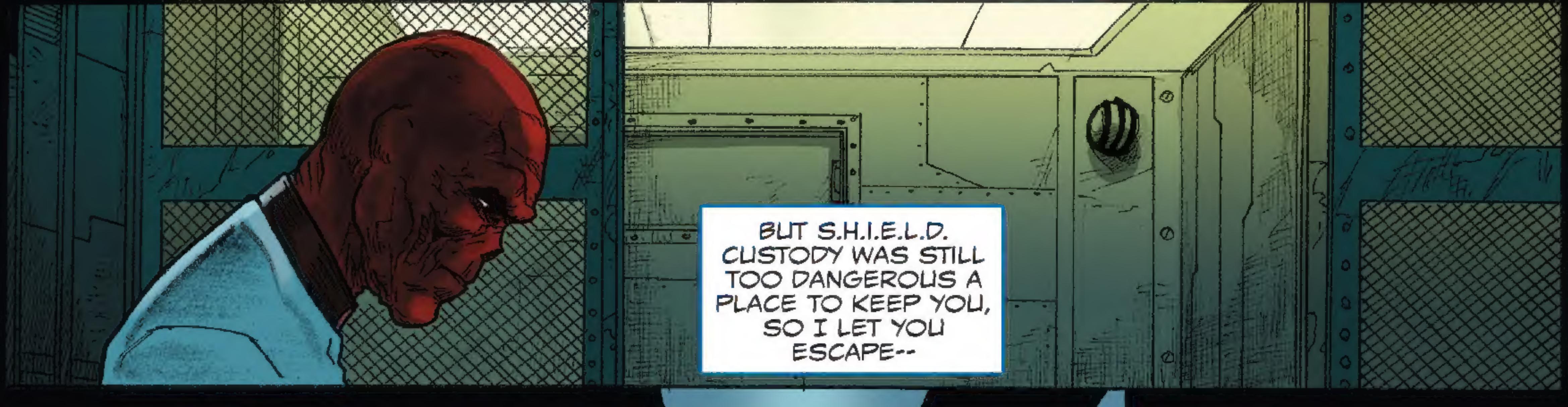
YOU POSSESSED THE BRAIN OF CHARLES XAVIER, MAKING YOU THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL TELEPATH--

--WHICH MEANT I COULD NEVER GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO ACT AGAINST YOU--FOR FEAR THAT MY OWN THOUGHTS WOULD BETRAY ME--

--SO I FOUND OTHERS TO DO IT FOR ME.

A TEAM OF AVENGERS, X-MEN AND INHUMANS WHO COULD BE LED TO BELIEVE THAT THEY THEMSELVES HAD THE IDEA TO BRING YOU DOWN--

--EVEN AS I
PULLED THEIR
STRINGS THE
ENTIRE TIME.



--AND WHERE
YOU WILL
FINALLY ANSWER
FOR EVERYTHING
YOU'VE DONE.

WELCOME
HOME,
JOHANN--

--FOR THE
LAST TIME.

EASY,
FATHER--YOU'RE
STILL WEAK
FROM THE
SURGERY--

YES, SIN...
HELP ME TO MY
CHAMBERS--
I NEED TO
REST--

--I MUST
BE READY FOR
WHEN OUR GUEST
ARRIVES.

OH, FATHER,
THERE'S NO
TIME FOR THAT,
I'M AFRAID.



HE'S
ALREADY
HERE.

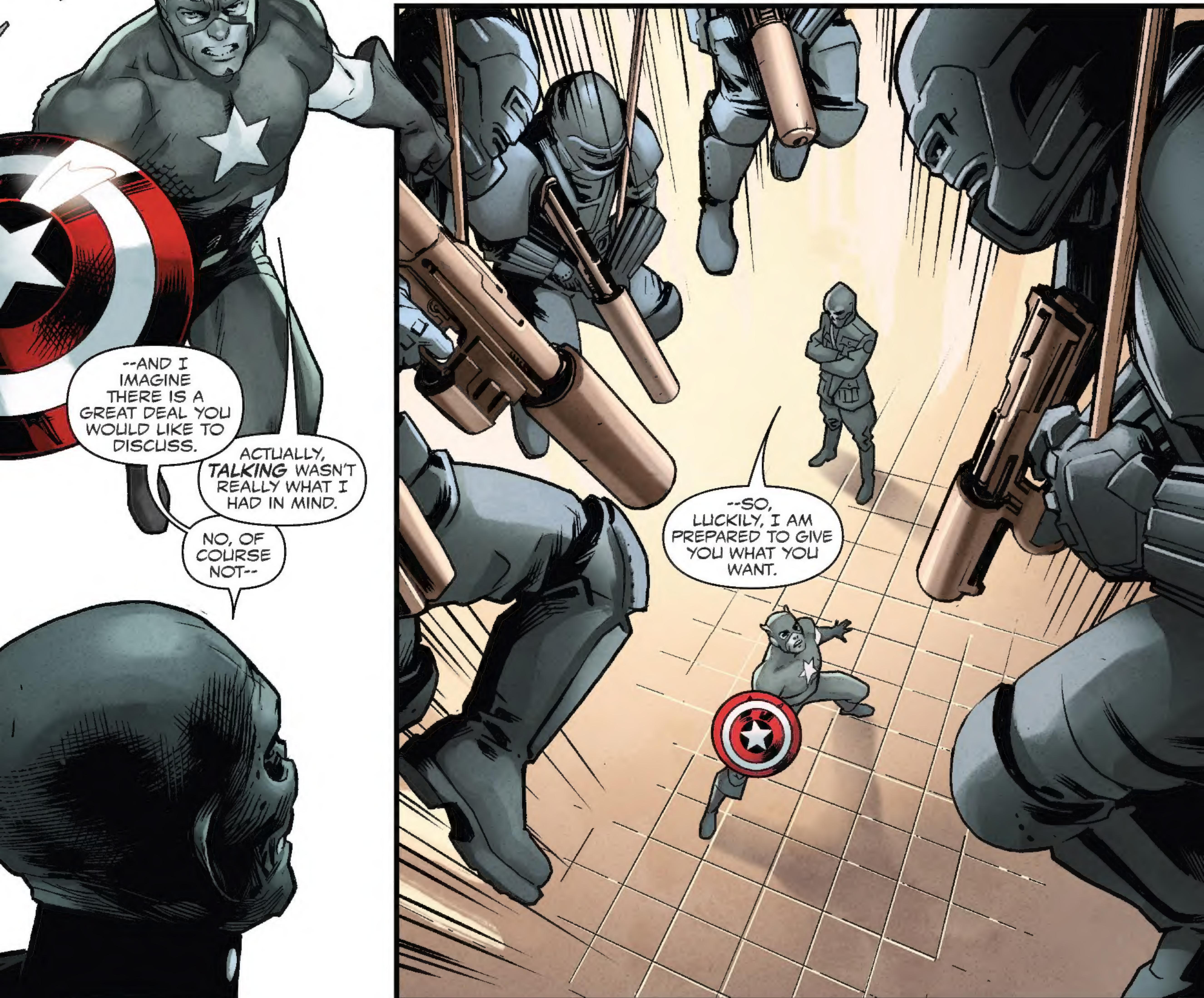
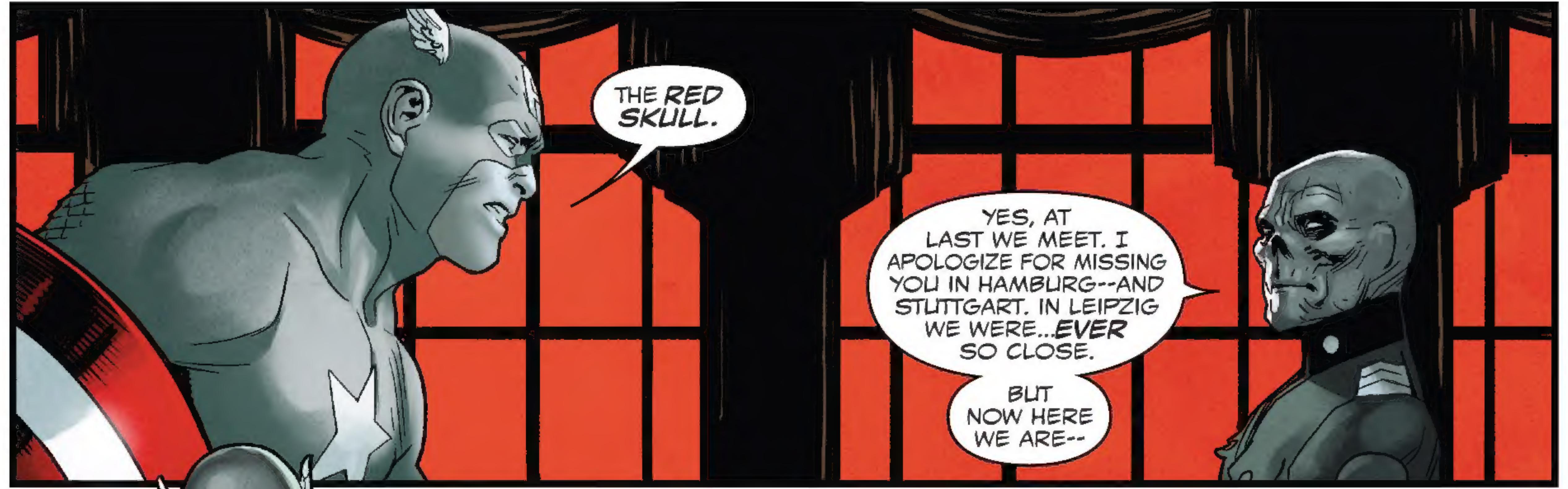
SUPREME
LEADER...I CAME
AS QUICKLY AS I
COULD. IT'S GOOD
TO SEE YOU IN
THE FLESH
AGAIN...

...IT'S
BEEN SO
LONG.



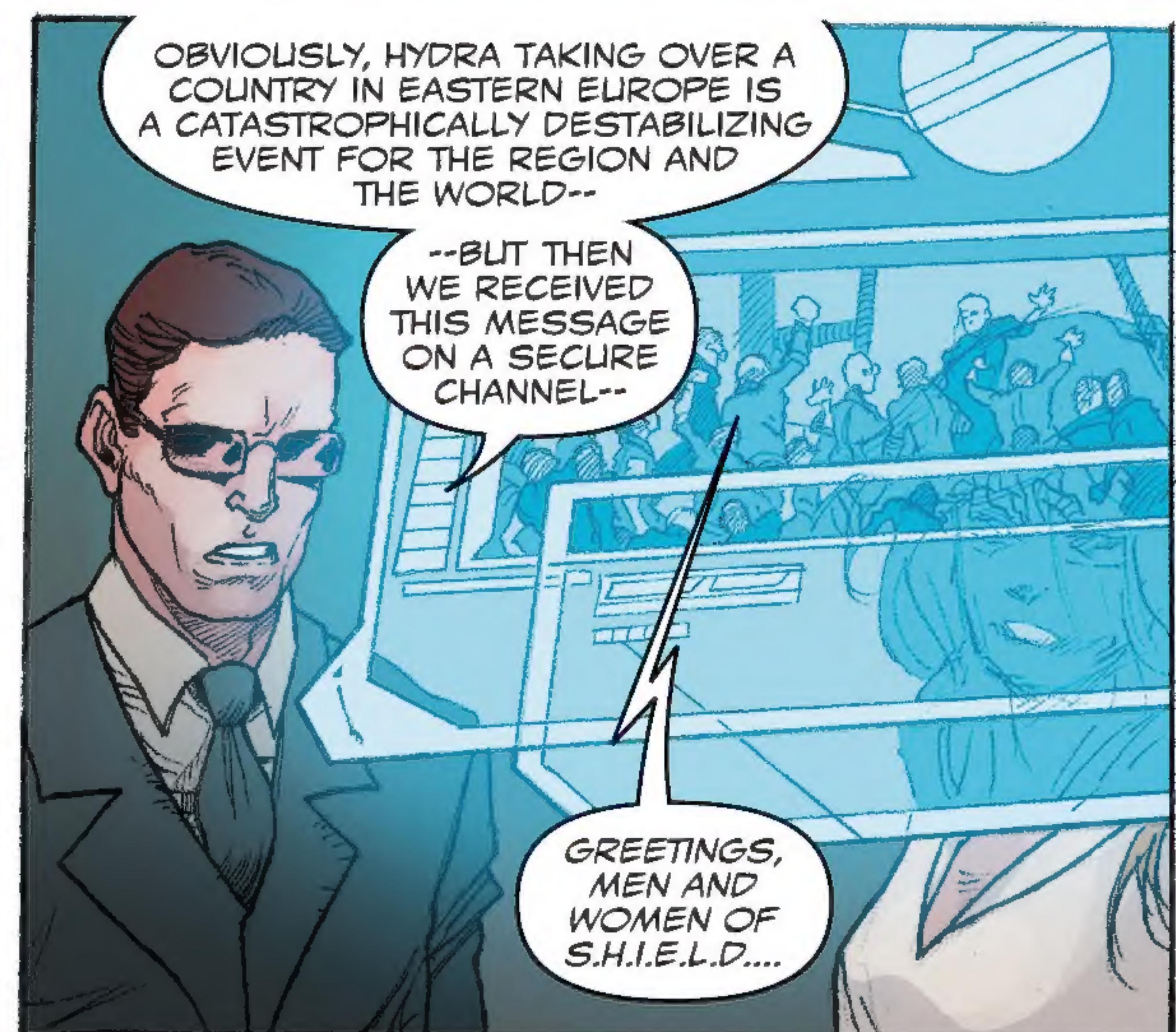
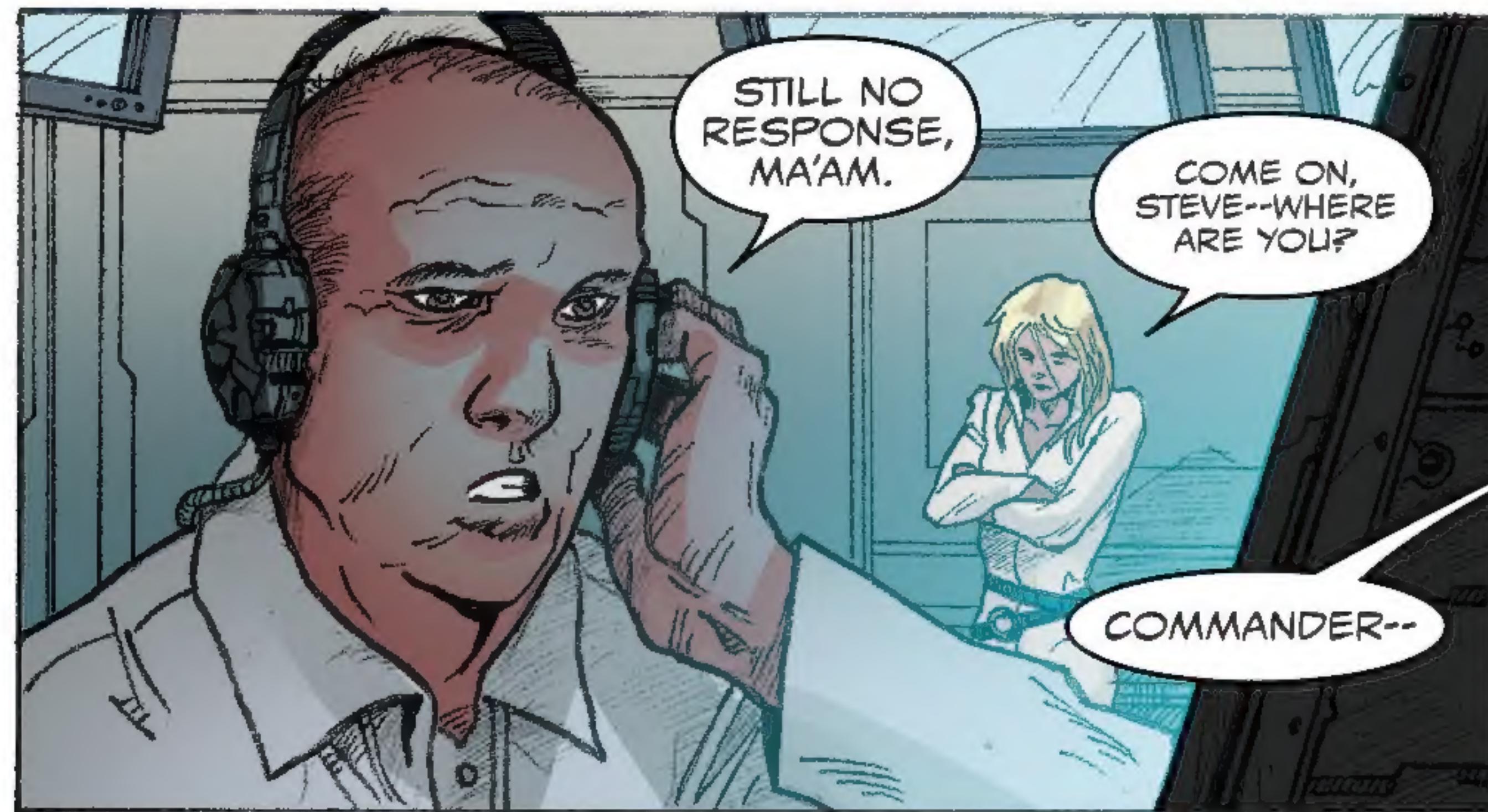
1945.
GERMANY.

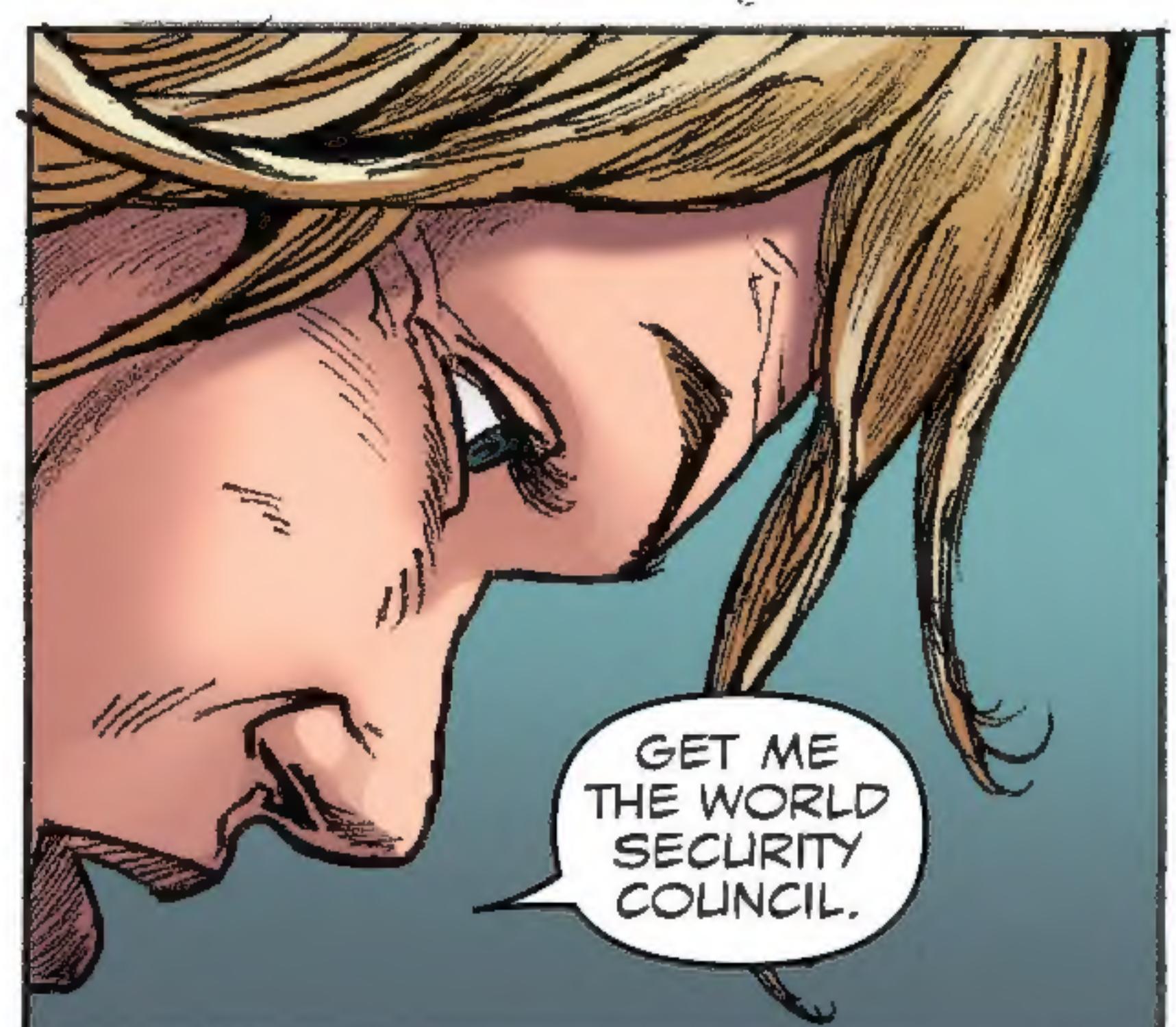
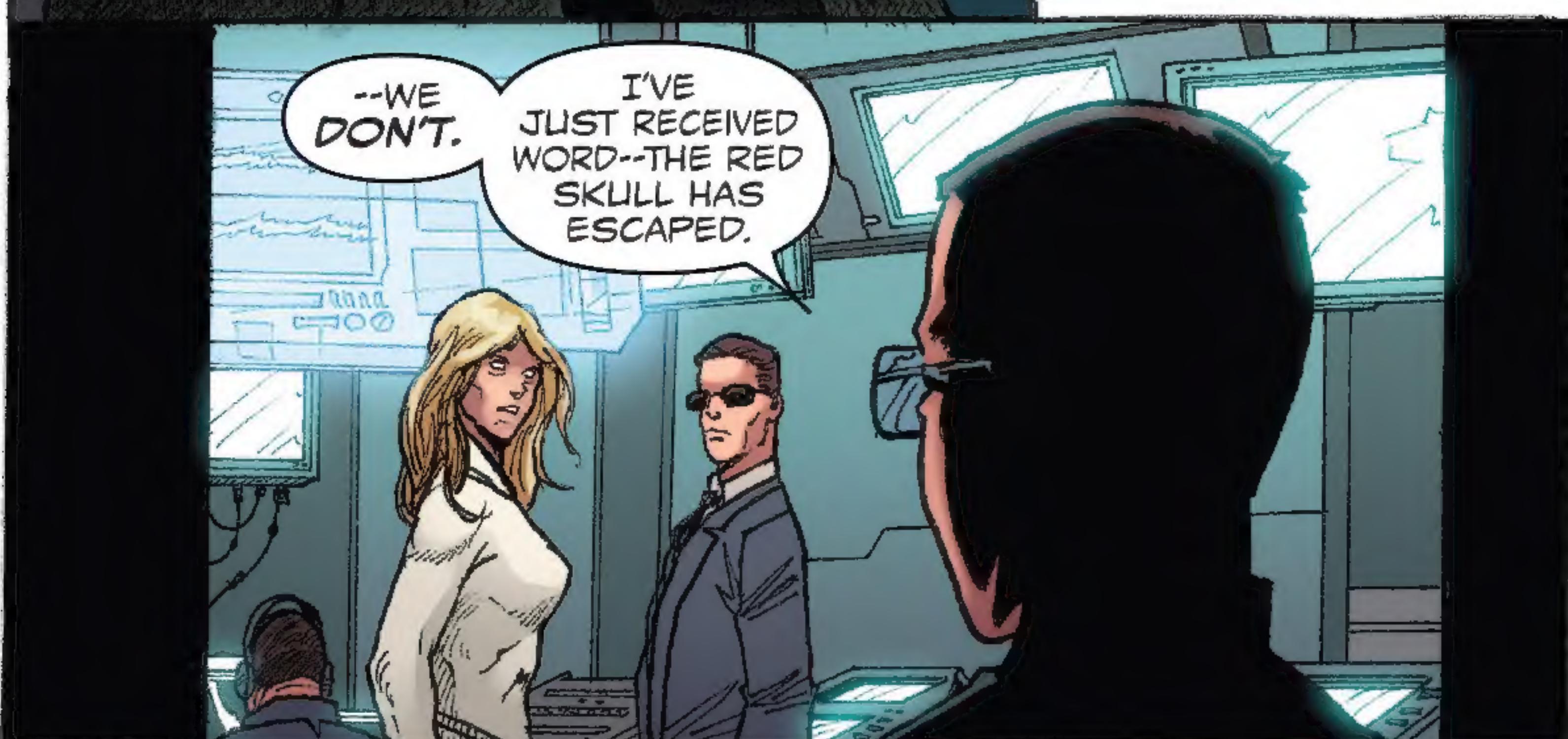
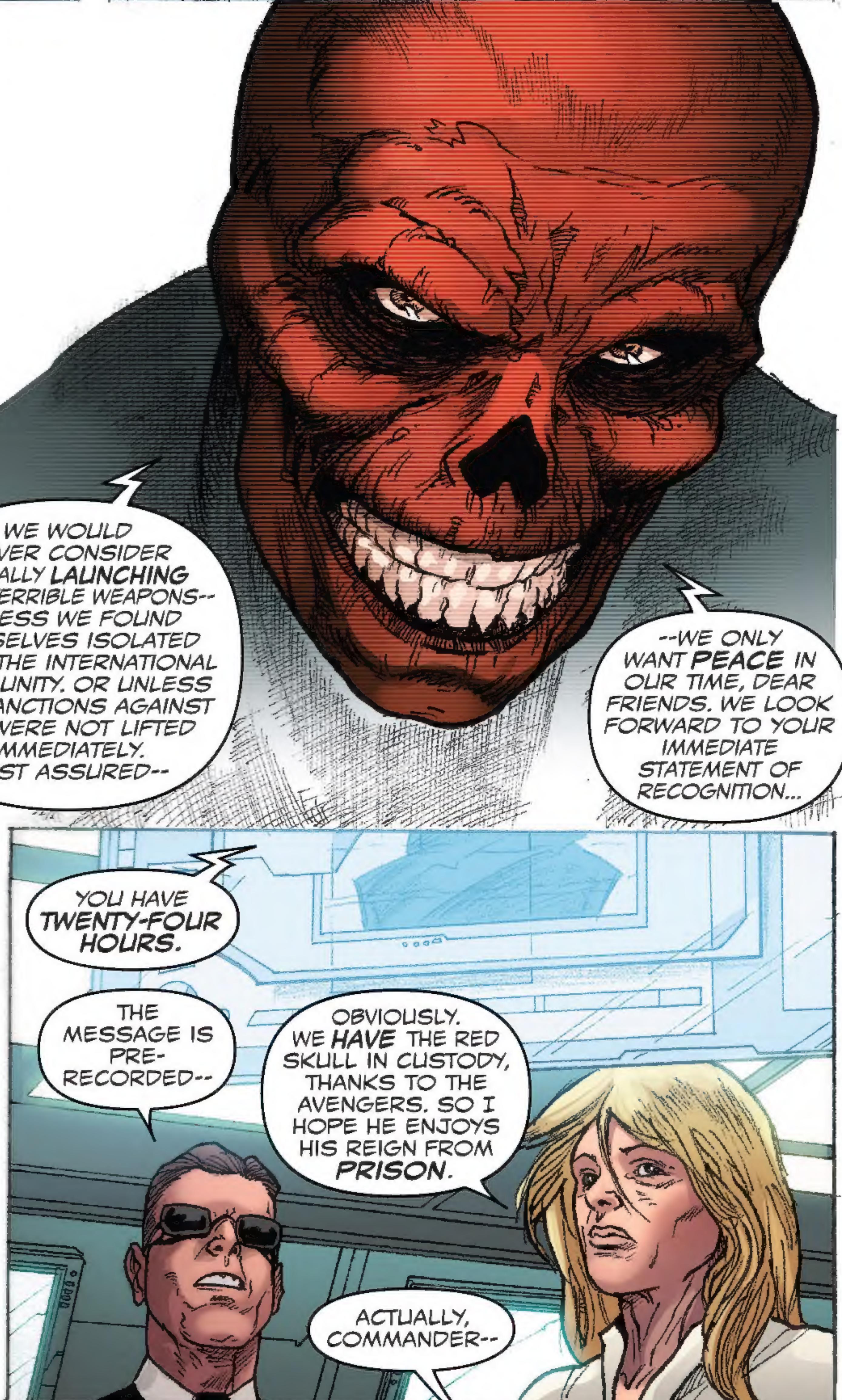
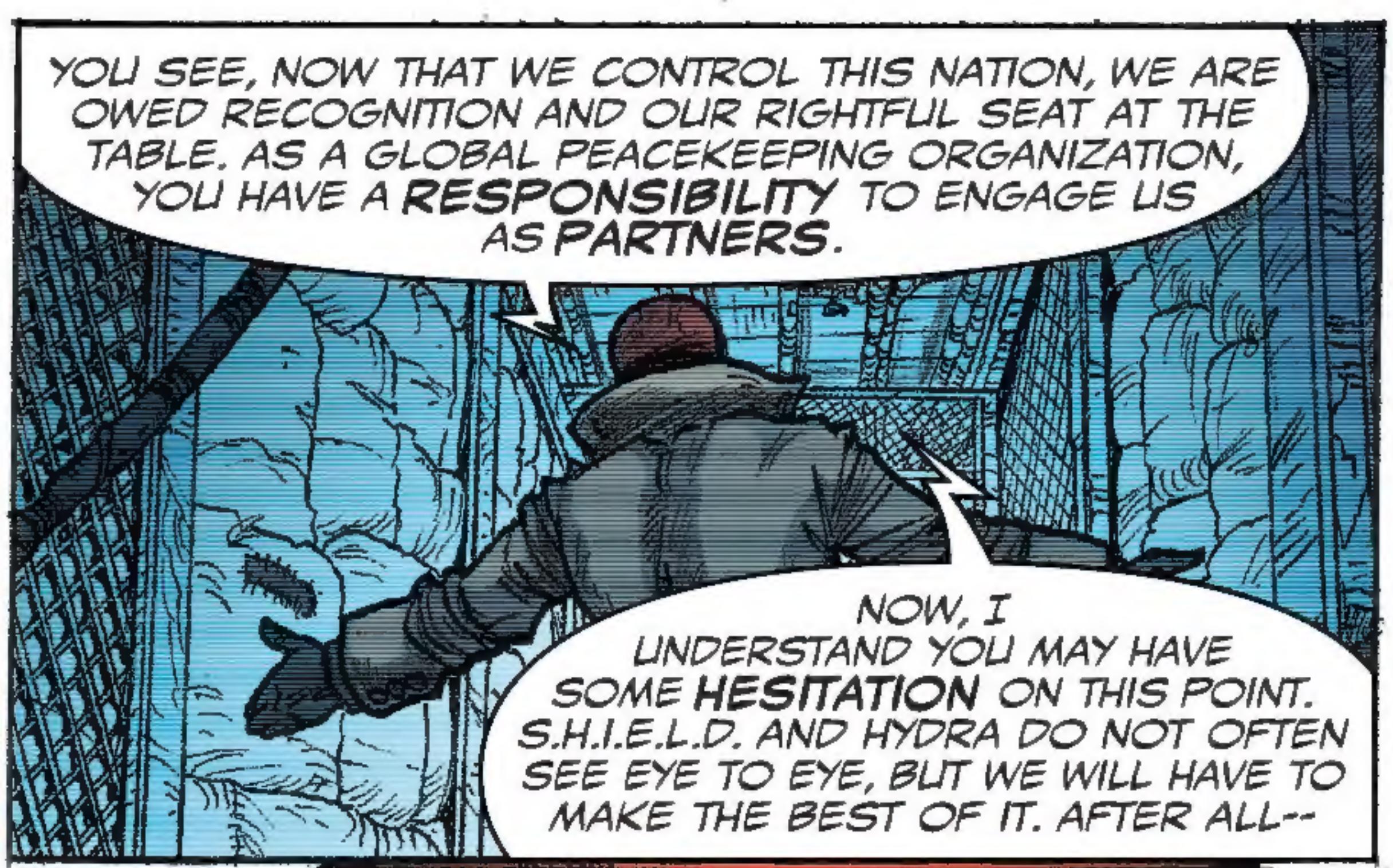




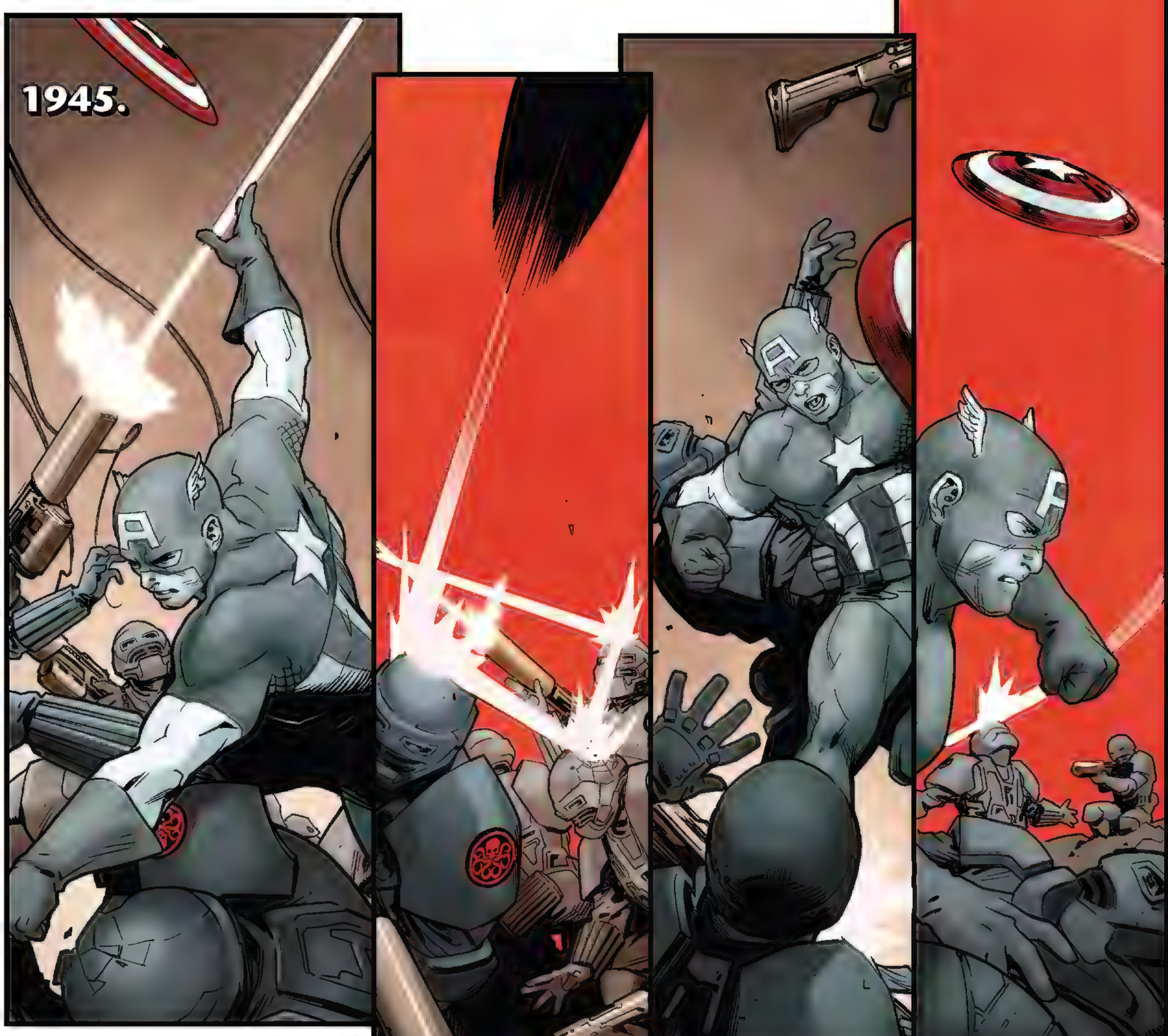
NOW.

DIRECTOR
ROGERS--HAILING,
ALL FREQUENCIES--
DIRECTOR ROGERS,
PLEASE REPORT
IN--





1945.





ALREADY,
FENHOFF AND
ZOLA HAVE PLEDGED
THEIR LOYALTY TO
ME. HEINRICH ZEMO
IS DEAD, AND THE
KRAKEN IS IN
HIDING.

I HAVE YOUR
SUPER-SOLDIERS,
AND THE MEANS TO
MAKE MORE. SO IF
I AM NOT HYDRA,
TELL ME--

--WHO IS?
YOUR ORGANIZATION IS
BUILT ON ORDER THROUGH
STRENGTH. THE BELIEF
THAT THE MOST POWERFUL
ARE ENTITLED TO
REIGN.

NOW I HAVE
TURNED YOU
AGAINST ONE ANOTHER
AND DECIMATED YOUR
RANKS. AM I NOT
THE MOST
POWERFUL?

NOT
YET--

CAREFUL
NOW, HERR ROGERS,
LEST YOUR DEAR, GRIEVING
HELMUT MEET THE SAME
FATE AS HIS IDIOT
FATHER.

IT WOULD
BE A SHAME TO
COMPOUND ALL THAT
SUFFERING WITH A
MORE...IMMEDIATE
SORT OF PAIN.

OR YOU CAN
PLEDGE YOUR LOYALTY
TO ME, AND IN RETURN, I
WILL SPARE HIM, AND THAT
WITCH THAT PULLED
YOU OUT OF THE
SLUMS.

EVERY DAY,
YOU WILL EARN THAT
MERCY. TOGETHER, WE WILL
CRUSH THE ALLIES AND
RAISE THE HYDRA FLAG
HIGH. BUT FIRST, HERR
ROGERS--

--YOU
MUST
KNEEL.

NOW.

HAIL HYDRA.

GET UP,
YOU FOOL.
I'LL ENJOY YOUR
GROVELING
ANOTHER
TIME--

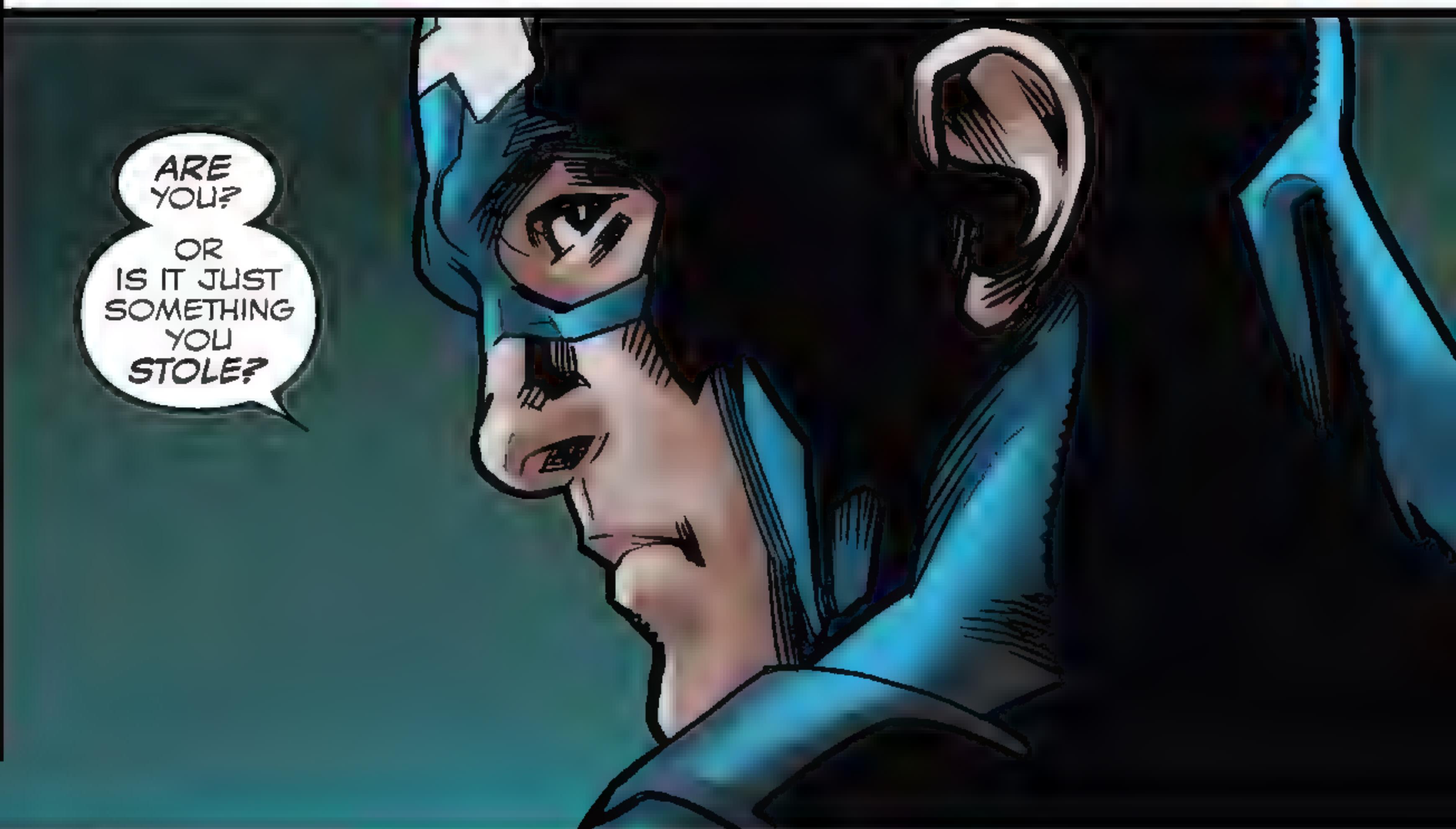
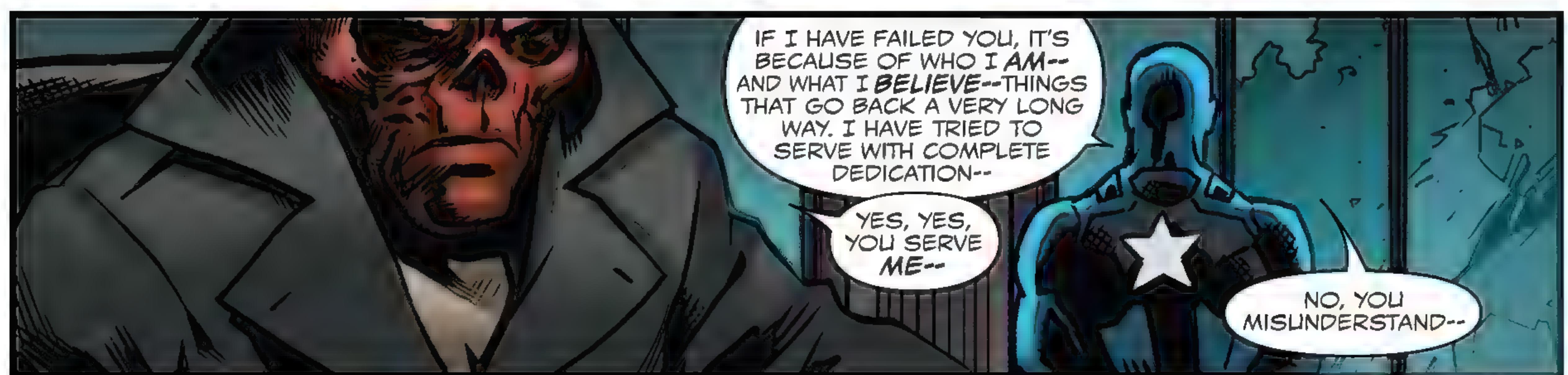
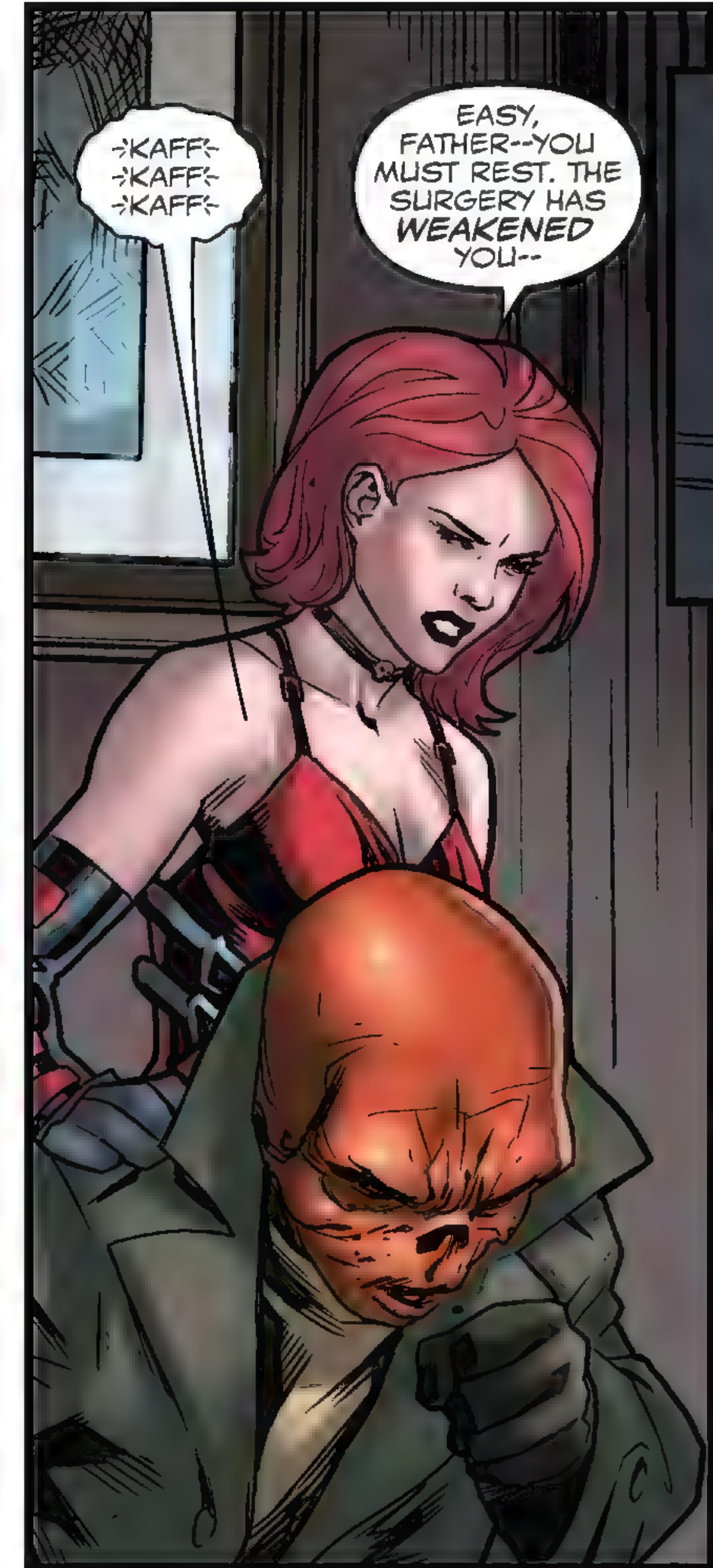
RIGHT NOW, WE
MUST STRATEGIZE. WE
MUST ADJUST. BECAUSE
MY PLAN--MY GRAND,
GLORIOUS PLAN--
HAS BEEN TORN
ASUNDER...

...FOR I
HAVE LOST THE
POWER OF CHARLES
XAVIER. OR, MORE
ACCURATELY, IT HAS
BEEN TAKEN
FROM ME.

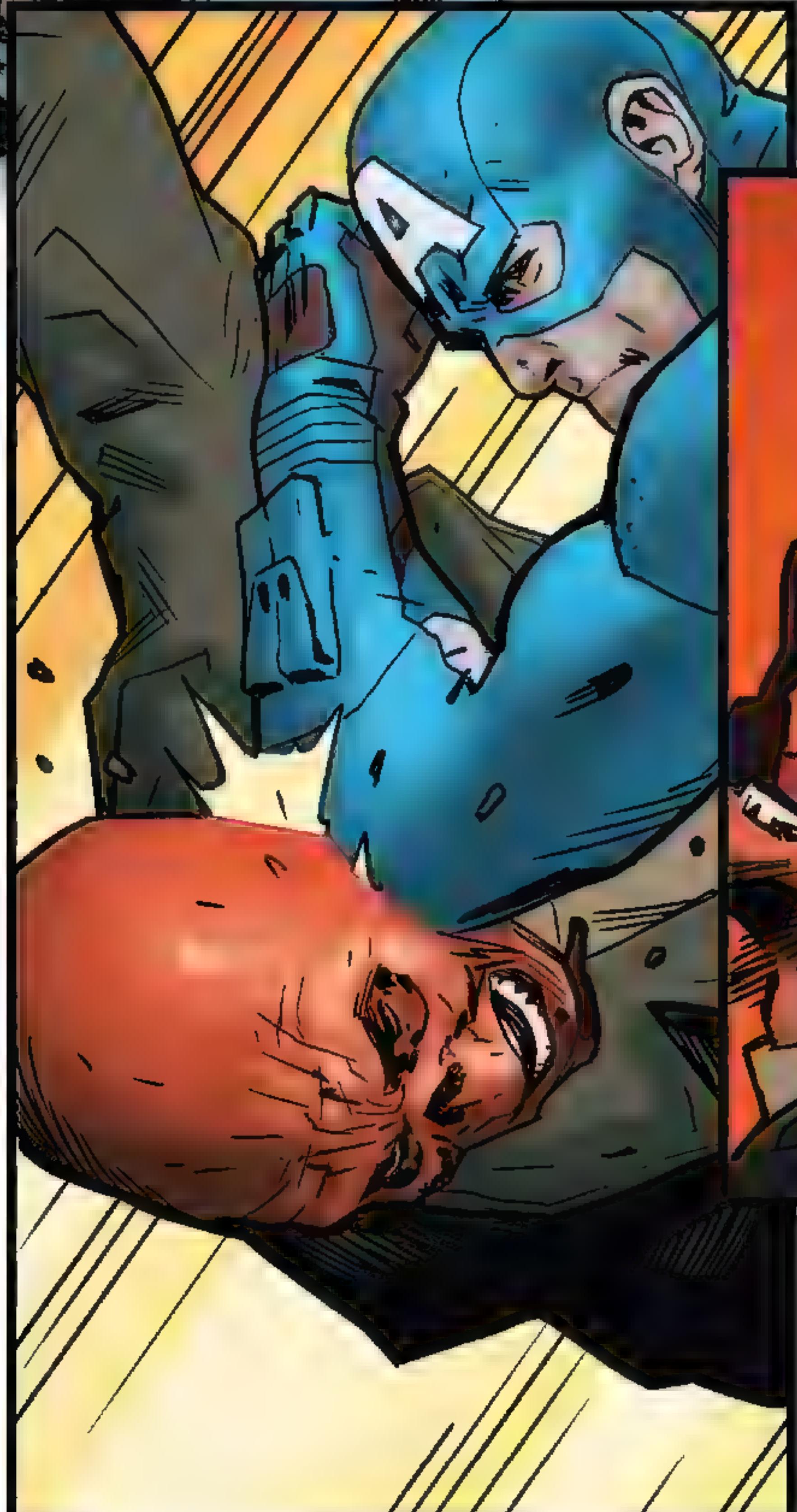
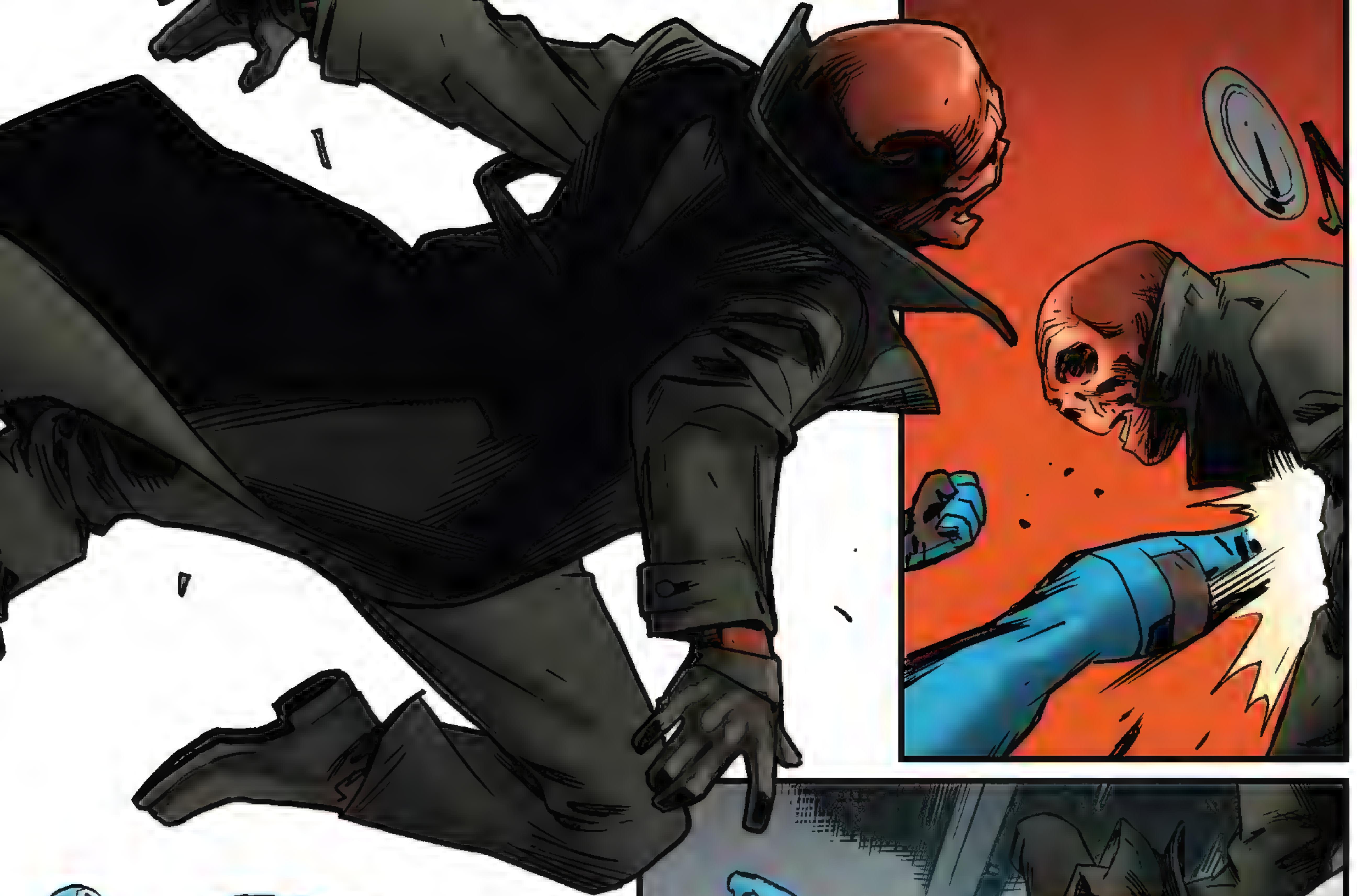
THE
UNITY SQUAD
WAS YOUR
TEAM.

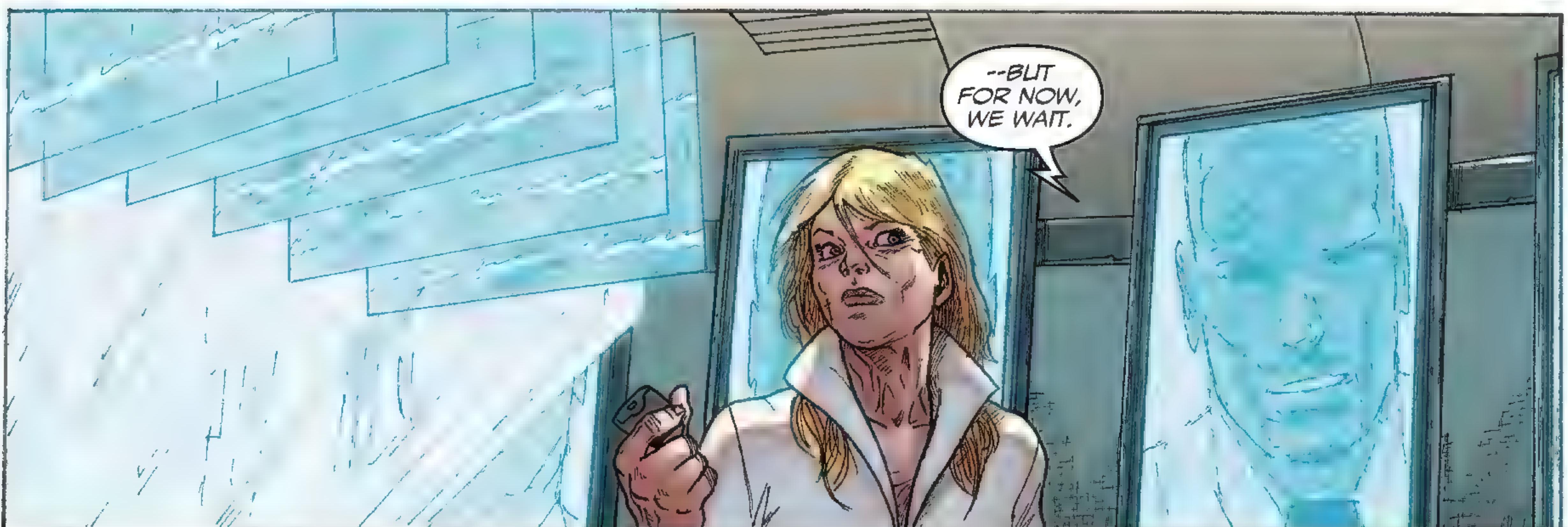
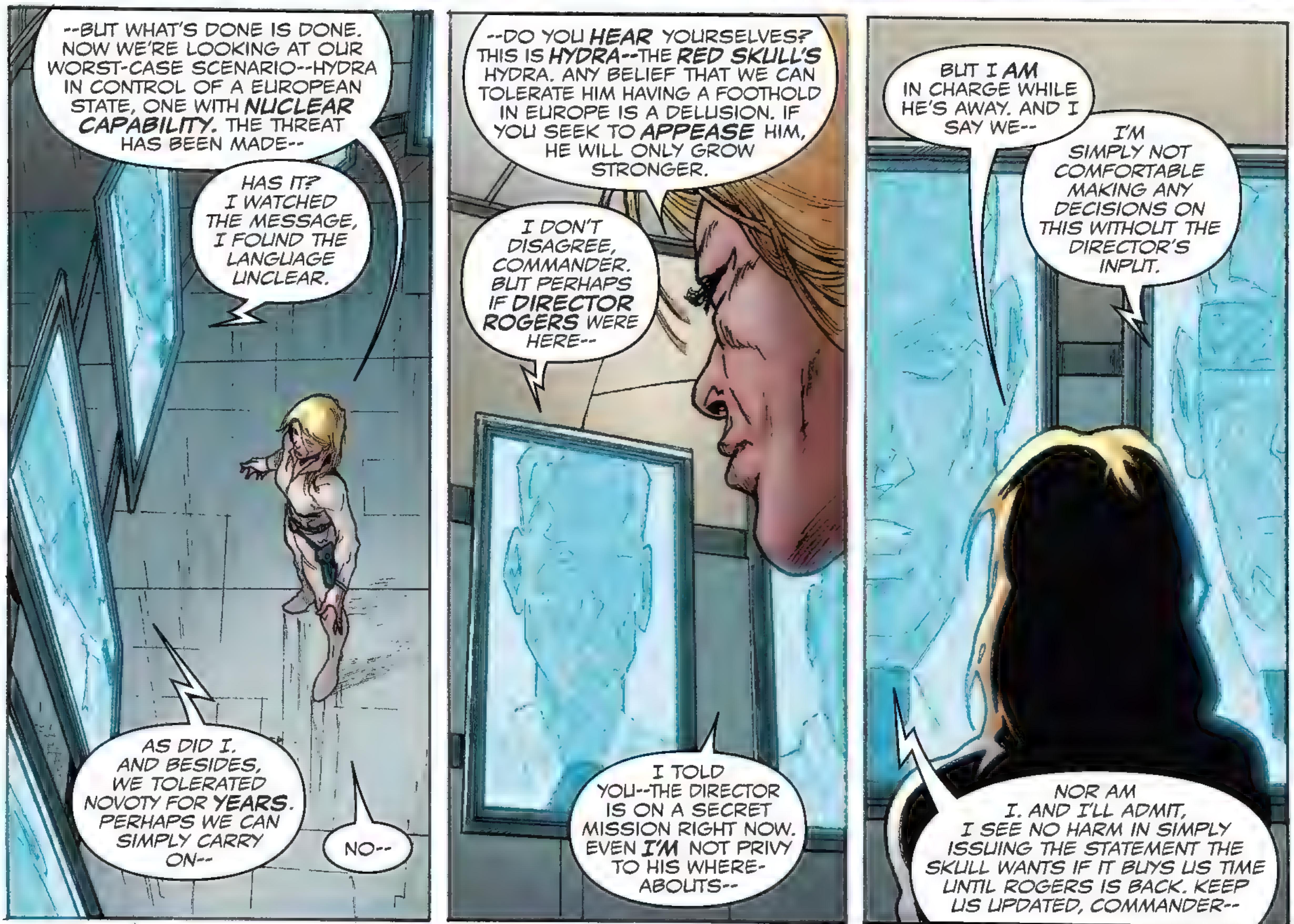
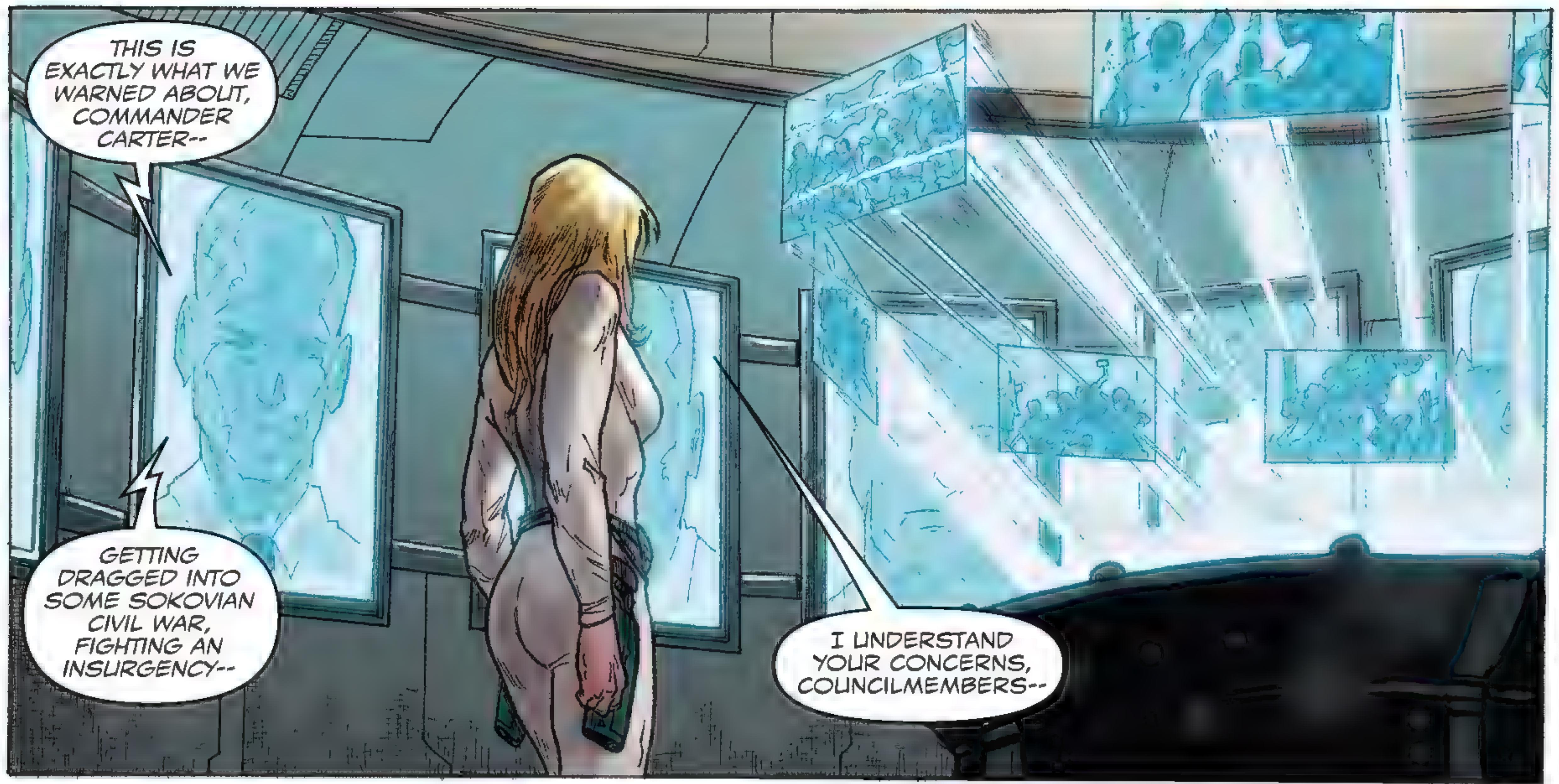
HOW
COULD YOU
LET THIS
HAPPEN?!











"SIGH. IDIOTS. HAPPY TO BEND OVER BACKWARDS FOR ANY LUNATIC, SO LONG AS HE HAS A WHIFF OF POWER ON HIM."

MA'AM--

--SHALL I TELL OUR FORCES TO STAND DOWN?

NO.

...COMMANDER?

I SAID NO.

THIS IS WHAT THE SKULL WILL EXPECT. ACQUIESCE. WEAKNESS. AND THAT WILL GIVE US AN ELEMENT OF SURPRISE. SO WE WILL NOT BE STANDING DOWN. WE WILL NOT LOOK AWAY WHILE HYDRA PLANTS ITS FLAG IN OUR BACKYARD. THE HELL WITH THAT--

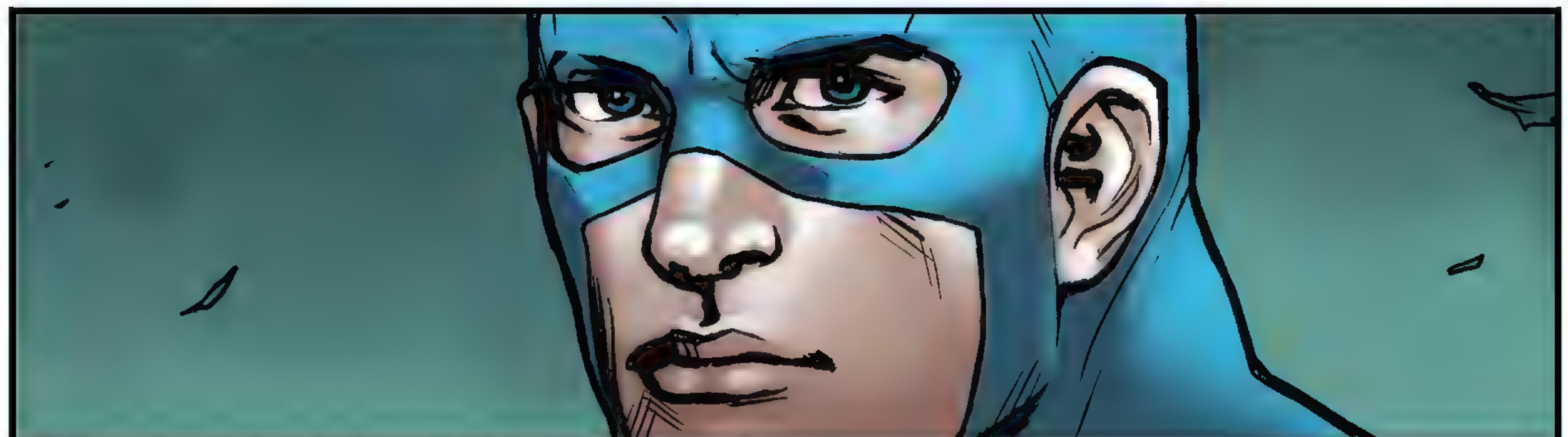
--ENGAGE HELICARRIER CRESCENT.












1945.





"THEY CALL IT
THE COSMIC
CUBE."



NEXT

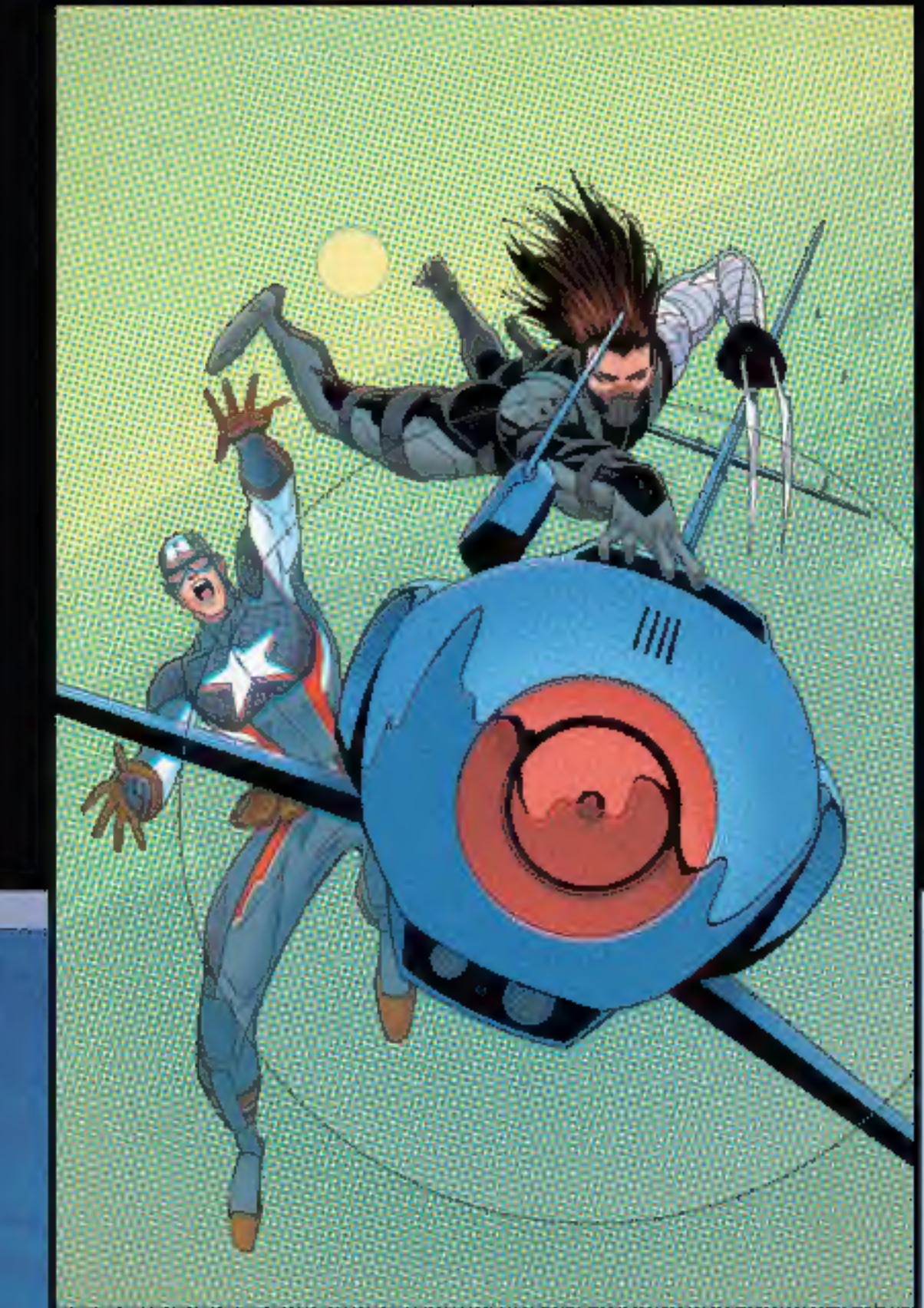


ZEMO'S "RETURN OF THE MASTERS" CONTINUES IN

THE STORY EXPANDS IN



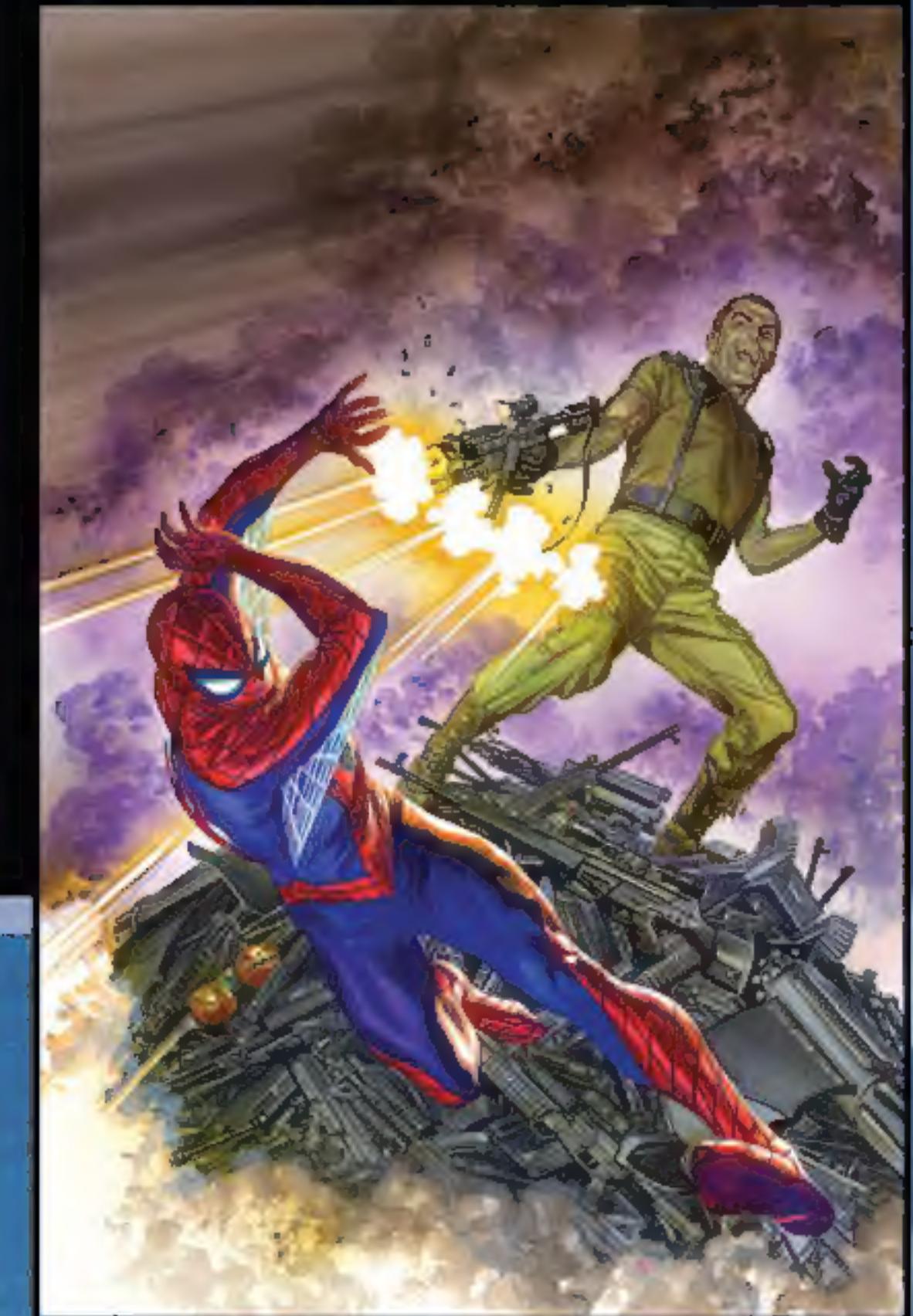
THUNDERBOLTS #10



THUNDERBOLTS #11



UNCANNY AVENGERS #22



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #25

